Fiji: The illegal interim Government established in Fiji through two military coups of May and September 1987, pursued policies of racial discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin, which we have consistently opposed in international forums. The Fiji Government on 23rd May, 1990, asked us to close our Mission in Suva, following which there have been no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

NAM's Stand on NPT

2864. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recently concluded NAM Foreign Minister's Conference at Cairo bears eloquent testimony to its continuing importance in the changed world situation; and

(b) if so, whether India is expected to have a leading role in NAM especially against the threat of sanction by the developed countries on NPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has been consistently playing an active role on all issues of concern to the NAM, including disarmament.

Closing down of Mission in Aden

2865. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have closed down its mission in Aden without even appointing an Honorary Consul; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent to the unification of North & South Yemen Sanaa became the capital and the Mission in Aden was closed. Appointment of an Honorary Consul, which is not related to the closure of a Mission, has not taken place.

Delay in issuing Passport by Ahmedabad Passport Office

2866. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken by the Regional Passport office, Ahmedabad to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether one of the general reasons given by the regional passport office for the delay in issuing a passport is said to be the delay in receipt of police report;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether there have been any complaints about issuance of passports where expiry dates marked on the passport happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for setting right such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) RPO Ahmedabad issues passports on first come first served basis. Presently it issues passports within 75-80 days of receipt of applications. No cases of loss of police report have come to notice; however, sometimes there are delays because of misplacement, wrong file numbers and postal delays. Regarding issue of passport where expiry date marked on the passport was earlier than the date of issue, one case has come to the notice of the RPO which was later on rectified.

Russia's Stand on Kashmir Issue

2867. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item cap-